

Polk County Observer

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EDITED BY LADIES OF the DALLAS WOMAN'S CLUB

This issue of The Observer is given over entirely to the ladies of the Dallas Woman's Club. Every article, news item and editorial has been contributed under their supervision and direction. Enterprising merchants have patronized the advertising columns and the proceeds of this issue will be turned over to the club to assist in their work.

Woman's Club and Its Wide-Awake Auxiliaries

(Mrs. Irene H. Gerlinger.)
The Woman's Club of Dallas has had a long career, but a useful one, considering its youth. It was organized in September of last year and has four active departments. The literary section, under the leadership of Mrs. Mark Hayter, is doing serious work in American Authors. Classic mythology will soon be taken up. The musical section, led by Mrs. Albert MacGregor, has brought together the music-lovers, and the choir from this section is developing the best women's voices in town. The Civic Improvement section, managed by Mrs. D. M. Metzger, is going to make a cleaner, more beautiful city of Dallas, if all their ambitious plans can be realized. The Young People's section, conducted by Miss May Shelton, is numerically the strongest of all the departments. The young women have given a series of enjoyable parties during the winter, and they have given themselves charming hostesses. The club has brought all the little

groups into one big, enthusiastic organization, and many delightful plays and parties are planned for the future. Several of the older members of the club have offered their large homes for the girls' parties, and they are fostering all enterprises that bring wholesome enjoyment to the young people. Women's clubs, as we know them, are of comparatively recent origin, and are yet somewhat on probation. Some clubs have erred in the matter of attempting study courses that were too abstract and difficult. Others have laid too much stress on things purely social; others have taken themselves too seriously and have let bitter personalities rend their ranks; some have neglected the very obvious local needs and have gone off at various tangents. In all modesty the writer feels that our club has begun on a broad platform. Perhaps we shall all gain something in general culture, in local pride, and life will be pleasanter and more worth while in Dallas, because of our organization. If our club does not accomplish these results then we may consider it a failure.

The aim of the club is purely social. Its purpose is to get the young people of Dallas better acquainted with each other, and so make better opportunity for social enjoyment. Unless the young people of a town meet together and share ideas they will form "sets" and fail to enjoy a broader friendship and social spirit. So far the club has entertained the young men and women at two successful receptions. Games, music and refreshments have always been enjoyed. The committee have been repaid for their trouble when so many of the guests have expressed their pleasure. The club is planning to entertain with a play next time, and if we carry out the plans suggested, the young people will be given another evening of pleasure. Our trouble is that we haven't all the young ladies interested that ought to belong, although we have now 70 members. We hope that when the young women read what we want to do socially, and realize just how much real friendship and social improvement can be gained in this way, they will join with us, and enjoy membership. A MEMBER.

THE LITERARY SECTION.

(Bertha Hayter.)
The literary section of the Woman's Club is nearing the close of its second year, having been organized in August 1910, by Mrs. George Gerlinger, who was elected president, with Mrs. Oscar Hayter as vice-president and Mrs. L. D. Brown secretary. The club was organized for the purpose of promoting helpful and systematic reading among its members. A course in American literature was decided upon. Authors, from the Colonial period, commencing with Captain John Smith and Cotton Mather, down to the present date, have been studied, including poets, dramatists, philosophers, historians, and many interesting papers and helpful discussions have resulted. This course has occupied the attention of the club for the two years of its existence. In January, 1911, Mrs. Gerlinger was re-elected president, Mrs. M. Hayter vice-president, and Mrs. J. R. Brown secretary. The membership for the first year numbered twenty-one, the second year showing an increase of twenty-seven. Meetings occur on alternate Wednesday, usually at the home of the president. When the Woman's club was organized in July, 1911, the literary club was invited to join in a body and become a section of the general club, which the club voted to do at its first meeting in September. Mrs. Mark Hayter then became president and chairman of the section. This section has taken part in all the programs of the monthly meetings of the Woman's Club, the paper on Current Events usually being prepared by one of its members. A short time ago the club voted to take up the study of Mythology, and a committee was appointed who prepared a course of lessons which included the classic myths of ancient Greece and Rome, the Norse and German myths and those of the Middle Ages, myths and legends of our own land, including the Pacific Northwest, and our new possessions. The book by Gayley on Classic Myths will be used as a basis for the study. This work, however, will not be commenced until after the summer vacation.

In the pursuit of its study the club has been greatly aided by the many references to be found in the public library, and the advantage has been much appreciated by the members.

THE MUSIC SECTION.

(Miss Edith Starbuck.)
The music section of the Dallas Woman's club has an enrollment of eighteen members. The first studies dealt with the history and growth of music down to the middle of the eighteenth century, noting the character and development of the instruments in use, and the form and execution of the music of that period. Connected with this was a consideration of the work of Palestrina, the Scarlatti and other composers. Interesting as an illustration of the music of that time was "Sumer is a Icumyn in," the oldest known part song in existence, which probably antedates the birth of Chaucer by about fifty years. The development of the modern piano and violin was then taken up. With John Sebastian Bach began a series of lessons on the lives and works of famous composers, including Haendel, Gluck, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Wagner. The programs have been varied by vocal and instrumental illustrations from the compositions of the musician under consideration, and by current items of interest in the realm of music. In addition to this regular work, the chairman, Mrs. Gilbert P. MacGregor, has organized a Women's Chorus, at present numbering about twenty voices. Encouraging progress is noted in this department, and all members feel very enthusiastic with regard to the work accomplished.

YOUNG LADIES' SECTION.

The Young Ladies' section of the Dallas Woman's club was organized on October 25, 1911, after several of the women had met together and considered how desirable it would be to have a young women's section. Miss Mae Shelton has been elected President, and Miss Edna Morrison is Secretary and Treasurer.

night occurred October 17, 1905. Many men, women and children called that evening and signed for library cards. For a year and a half the library was kept open every afternoon and evening, including Sundays, by volunteer help. Great credit is due the unselfish women, and a few young men, who gave their time freely to this good cause. But meantime the town was steadily growing, the patronage of the library increasing enormously, and it was imperative to have one competent person in charge all the while. This step was made possible by the action of the city council in granting a half mill of the taxes to support the library. At first this support yielded a trifling over three hundred dollars per annum, but now the same appropriation amounts to nearly twice as much.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT SECTION.

(Ella J. Metzger.)
The civic club movement in a community is an extended house cleaning habit into which the town clean-ups are absolutely essential first steps for civic improvement. Mrs. M. B. Ross, of Pennsylvania, says in her annual report that municipal cleaning day through the efforts of women's clubs has in many places been accepted by the city fathers as part of their duty. The appointment of the committee of women by the Commercial club last year to agitate a clean-up day in our city, met with such a generous response that the women of the city felt the necessity of organized effort along all lines of civic work. By combined agitation and work we expect to accomplish many things for a City Beautiful. The women of this country are looking after the moral and physical health of the nation in every phase of its affairs. One need but read to know that woman's work is the most important thing in the world. Let every household organize a "swat the fly" society and lend a hand to keep their own premises the "very best." Do not destroy the beautiful trees. Plant trees. A home without trees is a dreary, desolate object. There are not enough adjectives to describe a treeless home.

"Plant oak or ash on useless spots of ground.
A birch or willow at the murmuring brook;
Some flowering shrub upon the grassy mound.
Or useful tree in any vacant nook."

April 26 has been selected for a general clean-up day in Dallas; so lend a hand, and two if needful. Rome, or any other city, was not built in a day, neither was a woman's battle ever fought once and for all, in a day or a year, so we will

"Just introduce the washing tub
In government, and—there's the rub—
These women bent on purifying.
Oh, how they'll keep the suds a-flying!
Clean streets, clean alleys, and clean marts,
Clean halls, clean fences, and clean hearts."

With the acquisition of Miss Muscott as librarian came increased prosperity to the library. Trained workers from the Oregon Library Commission assisted in cataloging the books, and have often given valuable assistance since. The policy of the management has ever been to build up a good reference library and to keep on hand the best books available for the children and young people of the community. The money given by the city has barely paid running expenses, and money for books has always had to be made by some extra effort. At first high class concerts were given, and recitals, but the returns were meager. Descending to a more materialistic plane, New England dinners proved great financial successes, but everyone deplored the

(Continued on Page 2.)

PRACTICAL MARKET INSPECTION

(Contributed by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans, City Market Inspector, Portland.)

Until a very few years ago we were accustomed to considering everything that came from the store clean and wholesome, perhaps because we thought it was new; but with the discovery of germ life, and its relation to disease, this idea, with many others, was exploded.

Strange, however, as it may seem, the scientific care and treatment of foods is very recent compared with many far less important agencies for human welfare. That food was not a matter of earlier investigation, and is not given greater consideration today, is still more surprising when we realize its relation to the human body, knowing that it serves as the material from which the animal structure is built, and also furnishes the energy to keep up the bodily activities. Professor Olsen, of the Polytechnic Institute, of Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "The steel of our bridges and buildings is bought and sold on the chemist's certificate of its composition to the thousandth of per cent. Foods are manufactured and sold on flavors and appearance, utterly regardless of composition or food value. The food for our engines must be tested and analyzed, but the far more precious human organism is loaded with a heterogeneous mixture of food of unknown composition. When an intelligent, well-informed public demands analyzed, tested foods they will be better served by the food producer, manufacturer and salesman." This indifference to the character of our foods comes largely through ignorance, and no more important study could commend itself to the housewife and mother than the scientific investigation of our food supply.

The subject of food has so many phases, and yet all are so interwoven it is difficult to separate the one from the other, but in none of its many sides is there more confusion than in what is apparently the most simple—pure food. A scientist has given this definition of pure food: "Food is impure or adulterated, therefore, when it contains injurious constituents of any kind, when it is below the standard of food value, when sold under some form of fraud or deception, or when it does not conform in some respect to pure food laws. The words 'impure' and 'adulterated,' as applied to foods very rarely implies the presence of what are commonly considered poisonous constituents."

This is not true, however, of unclean foods, and the same high authority says: "The unsanitary condition of the food supply has resulted in the introduction into the human system of innumerable disease bacteria. Under these conditions the sacrifice of life has been appalling, especially among the immature, aged and sick."

Impure food can, and is being regulated by legislation, because it is tangible visible and easily discovered; fifth does not qualify under any of these heads, but on the contrary the dangerous kind is evasive, unsuspected and unobserved, though the conditions producing filth are often most apparent. Unsanitary conditions then being the most alarming feature of the food proposition, how are we going to apply the remedy? The answer is simple enough—by education and by law. We advise public education before the law, for the law-makers must be educated up to the necessity for food regulations, before they are capable of enacting just and equitable legislation on the subject. Not an easy thing to do, you may think, but there you are mistaken. While the conscience of the law-maker may lie dormant for years, show him conclusively that the food he is eating is filthy or diseased and he will be ready to vote for any ordinance you may propose, and what is more, back it up with public money. And right here it might be stated, that there is no reform to which the public responds so unanimously, or so readily supports as a crusade for clean food.

A good ordinance is the first essential toward bringing about satisfactory market conditions. This ordinance should provide for the officer to enforce it, and it should cover those things which general sanitary conditions and local needs demand. Briefly stated, some of these requirements should be: keeping open boxes of food at least two feet above the floor; keeping all foods that cannot be washed or cooked after being taken home under cover, such covering to exclude dust and flies; having no toilet opening in-

to a room where food is kept; water and lavatory conveniences on same floor as market; proper ventilation and disposal of garbage, and scores of other things that will occur to the good housewife if she insists upon her dealer keeping his store and his food as clean as she does hers.

And why not? It is right here we find the point of difference between the average shopman and the thrifty housekeeper. She takes excellent care of her food for economical reasons, and he exposes his to every imaginable contamination, because he believes he can't afford to take proper care of it.

To change his viewpoint is the mission of the clean food advocate. Convince the merchant that cleanliness pays, and the battle is won.

Naturally the merchant at first resents inspection, and looks upon it as an invasion of his personal rights, but the tactful inspector will respect this very human characteristic, and endeavor to convince him that the desire is to help and not harm him. The utmost patience is often demanded, for, as we said, market improvement is largely a matter of education, and that is a slow process, but whenever the desire to do better is manifest in ever so small beginnings, the merchant has started upon the right road, and few ever take a back track, hence the wise inspector will be satisfied to make haste slowly, rather than excite resentment by undue zeal. "Line upon line, precept upon precept; here a little, there a little," always watchful; never failing when a word of commendation has been earned; just and impartial should be the rule toward those who are trying to do better.

But to the other class—the class of merchants who nurse their resentment; who tell you that what was good enough for their grandfathers is good enough for them; who defy the city ordinances, and disregard all rules of sanitation and decency, no quarter should be given, and they should be prosecuted to the limit of the law, for there is nothing more reprehensible or vicious than to deal filthy, germ-laden food to an unsuspecting public.

All this applies to small towns as well as to large cities, for the danger and contamination is just as great. Small towns cannot always have paid inspectors, but wherever a woman's club exists there is no excuse for unclean markets. If a town is incorporated an ordinance can easily be obtained, and some woman can be designated, or be a volunteer market inspector for the club. If she hasn't the authority or is denied the privilege of going behind the scenes she will probably be able to see enough on the outside to get a pretty fair idea of the unseen.

There is nothing the unclean shop dreads so much as publicity, and after a few unfavorable reports to the club, which is bound to filter through to the merchant and the public, it will be surprising if conditions do not begin to improve.

To do unpaid inspection is perfectly feasible in a small town, but it will take unbounded courage, the loss, perhaps, of some friends, and the opprobrium of being called a "busybody," but if one child has been saved from poisonous contamination by compelling the merchant to put his candy under cover; if an epidemic of typhoid fever has been prevented by making him take better care of his garbage; and the sale of infected meat or tuberculous chickens has been stopped, is the service to humanity not worth the Gethsemane?

To Contributors.

Owing to a preponderance of material and limited space, the editors have found it necessary to omit some very excellent articles from this edition. We would very much have liked to print everything sent in, but our generous advertisers encroached upon our space and made it necessary to curtail somewhat. Some of the later articles received are thus numbered among these. We trust no one will feel offended under the circumstances.

THE EDITORS.

Attend Presbytery.

The spring meeting of Willamette Presbytery was held at McMinnville on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Those attending from Dallas were: Rev. J. M. Cornwall, Rev. E. W. Miles, W. H. Boales, Mrs. E. W. Miles, Mrs. J. G. Van Orsdel, and Mrs. H. B. Cooper.

Keeps Oregon Money at Home

UNION PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY MAKES LOAN IN CORVALLIS

President Mark T. Kady and Treasurer F. H. Weincken, of the Union Pacific Life Insurance Company of Portland, are in the city, negotiating a loan of \$6000 on the K. P. building.

The Union Pacific Life is a new Oregon company that is just completing the placing of its capital stock, preparatory to beginning the active and aggressive writing of insurance. The company has now \$91,643 of cash assets and the amount is rapidly approaching \$100,000, which is necessary to the securing of license for writing insurance.

This is a vigorous young organization with a splendid staff of officers all men of large financial strength and experience. It is a distinctively Oregon company; 365 of its stockholders are Oregonians and a number are residents of Benton county, and over \$15,000 of stock is held in Marion county.

The 6 per cent loan now being placed by this company on the K. P. building illustrates the value of such domestic organizations as the Union Pacific Life.

Keeping Oregon money at work at home by financing her industries with her own funds is the sure way to commercial independence. This is the fundamental idea of the U. P. Life Insurance Co. and is in strict accord with the "Made in Oregon" campaign now sweeping the state.

Oregon pays heavy tribute to the great Eastern money centers in many millions of annual insurance premiums, and then sends after this many more millions in interest to borrow back at high rates the first millions with which to finance her industries, as other home industries is self-evident; and Oregon people are getting wise, as is evidenced by the splendid patronage they are giving the state's own vigorous young insurance companies.

The Union Pacific Life has an important field of its own, and Benton county people will have the satisfaction of seeing the funds they invest in its securities and insurance coming right back to their own community to work and circulate, as in the case of the K. P. building.

Mr. E. Anderson, the local representative, is at the New Scott Hotel, where he will be glad to make other loans, purchase mortgages and sell the remainder of stock.

EASTER SERVICES IN DALLAS CITY CHURCHES

Easter Sunday was generally observed by the Churches of Dallas, except the Evangelical, whose pastor was attending conference at Hillsboro.

At the Methodist church a splendid Easter program was rendered at the morning service and special music was furnished by the choir.

The Christian church held its exercises in the evening, when the Sunday School gave an excellent program consisting of music and tableaux.

A special Easter treat was enjoyed at the Baptist church at the morning service, the church being appropriately decorated with greens and calla lilies. The pastor, J. W. Vine, delivered an Easter sermon.

The Sunday School rendered a program at the Presbyterian church in the morning and the choir gave the cantata, "Easter Evangel," in the evening.

Elder Ward, who organized the Adventist congregation, fourteen years ago, was visiting friends in the city and preached for them Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Bicknell, of Turner, visited their sons in Dallas on Tuesday on their way to McMinnville to attend Willamette Presbytery. Mrs. Bicknell is secretary of the Woman's Board of Home Missions.